

The  
*Groundes of Religion*  
necessarie to be knowen  
of euery one that may be  
admitted to the Supper  
of the Lord.

(..)

*Plainly set downe in Questions  
& Answeres, by M. DUDLEY  
FENNER, Preacher of  
the worde of God, in  
Middleburgh.*

1587.

3



AT MIDDLEBURGH  
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# Those grounds of Religion, which are necessarie to be

knowne of euery one that  
may be admitted to the  
Supper of the  
Lorde.

## QUESTION.

*What is God?*

ANSVVERE. He is <sup>a</sup> a Spirit, <sup>b</sup> who hath no  
qualities or shadowe of chaunge in him,  
but whose very being is most mighty, most  
iust, most mercifull, and therefore hath  
made all thinges good, and gouerned all  
things well,

*Qv. What is the blessed Trinitie?*

AN. Three <sup>c</sup> persons distinguished by their  
proper difference, but not separated one  
from another, because euerie one of them  
is one and the same God: <sup>d</sup> The Father of  
none: <sup>e</sup> The Sonne begotten of the Father  
before all beginnings: <sup>f</sup> The Holie Ghost  
proceeding from the Father & the Sonne.

*Qv. Seeing we were <sup>g</sup> were all in Adam  
made good, according to God his image, howe  
and in what sorte are you corrupted?*

AN. By the <sup>h</sup> willinge fall of Adam, I  
Iohn. 3. 16. & 3. 18. 1 Ioh. 4. 9. Psalm 2. 7. Heb. 1. 5. f Ioh. 1. 14. 26  
Act 16. 7. Rom. 8. 9. 11. Cor. 2. 12. g Ge. 1. 26. Eph 4. 24. Col. 3. 10.  
h Eccle. 7. 31. Rom. 5. 13. 14.

Of G O D

a. Iohn 4. 24

b. Exo. 3. 14.

Iam. 1. 17.

1. Ioh. 1. 1. 5

and 4. 16.

Esay. 43. 12.

Iere. 4. 16.

Iob. 36. 5.

and 37. 12.

Nah. 1. 2. 3.

Hab. 3. 3 & 4

Gen. 1. 31.

Psal. 145. 17

c. Hag. 2. 5. 6

1. Iohn. 5. 7.

Math. 28. 19

Ioh. 14. 26.

Gal. 4. 6.

2 Cor. 13. 13

d. Pro. 8. 22.

Ioh 1. 1. 14 24

1 Cor. 8. 6.

e. Math 3. 17

Luk. 2. 49.

f Ioh. 1. 14. 26

with

## THE GROVNDES OF RELIGION.

*The corrupte  
estate of man.*

*a. Ioh. 3. 25*

*1 pht. 2. 1.*

*b. Lze. 36. 26*

*2. Cor. 3. 3.*

*a. Gen. 6. 5.*

*& 8. 21.*

*d. Ep. 2. 1. 1*

*e. Gal. 3. 10.*

*f. Rō. 4. 3. 4. 5*

with all menne in his loynes, deserued to be *a borne so dead in sinne*, as I can haue no true feede or beginninge of goodnelle in me, vntill both *my stonie heart be taken away*, and a newe heart be wholie giuen mee of God,, without whose especiall grace (although I can by the common gifte giuen to all men, vnderstand, reason, will, and desire) yet I haue no power to *incline or mooue any of these* as I should doe accordinge to God his will.

*Q. In what case stande you by meanes of this corruption?*

*AN.* I am the *childe of wrath and euillasting damnation.*

*Qv.* What doth the least sinne, as euery euill motion, or the not perfect continuance in doing the whole Lawe of God deserue, both before and after faith?

*AN.* That which the Apostile saith, *Cursed, that is, euillastingly condemned is he, that continueth not to doe all whiche is written in the booke of the Lawe.*

*Qv.* Then can we not be iustified, that is, acquitted before Gods iudgement seate, by those good workes, which proceed from faith?

*AN.* No: For the most worthie obedience of Abraham, comming from his faith, did not iustifie him, but onely *this faith which was accounted to him for righteousness: And*

*if*

## THE GROVNDES OF RELIGION.

*If the Lorde will marke what is done amisse by his righteous seruauant, who can abyde it?* Psa. 130. 3. and 143. 2.

*Qv. Howe are we then acquitted before God his iudgement seate?*

*AN. Onely by the imputation of Christ his death & obedience, <sup>a</sup> who was made a curse to redeeme the elect fro the curse of the lawe, who knowing no sinne, was made sinne for the elect, that is, had all their sinne so accounted to him, as that he might beare the punishment of it: to this ende, that they might by the same way, bee made God his righteousness in him, not in them selues.* There is a trans-  
position of man in  
Christ.  
a. Gal. 3. 13.  
2. Cor. 5. 21.  
Esa. 53. 3. 4.

*Qv. Howe can we be made partakers of this iustification in Christ <sup>b</sup> after wee knowe one God and three persons, the Father, the Sonne, and the holy Ghost: and that Christ is perfect God and perfect man?* b. Ioh. 17. 2. 3.  
1. Ioh. 5. 7.  
Rom. 1. 3. 10.  
and 9. 5.

*AN. Onely by <sup>c</sup> the unfained faith of the elect, which is that faith, whereby wee are able to receyue Christ.* c. 2 Tim. 1. 3  
Tit. 1. 1.  
Gal. 3. 16. 27  
Eph. 3. 17.  
d. 1 Cor. 13. 3

*Qv. Howe doe ye knowe that yee haue that faith?*

*AN. By the true marke which the Apostle giueth, saying: <sup>d</sup> Prove your selues, whether ye be in the faith or no, whether Christ be in you or no.*

*Qv. Howe may we know Christ to be in vs?*

*AN By the three <sup>e</sup> benefites wherewith he commeth vnto vs, blood, water, & spirit.* e. 1. Ioh. 5. 6. 7.

## THE GROVNDES OF RELIGION.

*Qv. What is meant by Bloud?*

*1. 1. Pe. 1. 2. 3.* *AN.* *Our iustification cōsisting in Christ*  
*Rom. 4. 25.* *his righteousness, & the forgiuenes of sinne*  
*Act. 20. 28.* *by his bloud-shedding.*

*Qv. What is meant by Water?*

*2. Heb. 10. 22* *AN.* *Our sanctification, when the grace*  
*Tit. 2. 11. 12* *of God teacheth vs to denie vngodlines,*  
*vnrighteousnes, and worldly lustes, to liue*  
*godly, righteously, and soberly in this pre-*  
*sent worlde.*

*Qv. Howe shall we knowe that we feelee both*  
*this true mortifying or denying of sinne, and*  
*true liuing to righteousness?*

*h. 1. Co. 7. 11* *AN.* *When both from a true sorrowe ac-*  
*1. Pet. 4. 2* *cording to God, for euery thing we knowe*  
*forbidden of God (yea the least) as all light*  
*orhes, idle wordes, profitable lyes, or vaine*  
*actions, we feelee a studie to auoyde the first*  
*motions to them, a clearing of our selues*  
*from all suspition of them, by auoyding all*  
*appearance of euill, an indignation for all*  
*such things past, a feare, leaſt ſuch thinges*  
*by our corruption should fall out againe: a*  
*great desire to preuent them: a zeale against*  
*them, and a punishinge of them by exerci-*  
*sing all due authoritie which God hath gi-*  
*uen vs against sinne: as also a great studie*  
*to spende all the rest of our time, not accor-*  
*ding to the will of men, but accordinge to the*  
*will of God.*

*Qv.*

# THE GROVNDES OF RELIGION.

Qv. What is ment by the Spirit?

AN. That full assurance which the *Holie Ghost* worketh in our heartes that wee are God his children, whereby we are sealed vnto the day of redemption, that is, fully assured that wee shall be kept by the power of GOD through faith vnto saluation.

i. Gal. 4. 6.  
Rō. 8. 15. 16.  
Ep. 1. 13. 14.  
and 4. 30.  
1. Pet. 1. 5.

Qv. By what ordinary means is that true faith and that which followeth it, wrought in vs?

AN. By the preaching of the gospel. Rō 10. 14

Qv. What is the cause that so manie heare the preaching of the Gospell, yea doe receiue it with some<sup>e</sup> tast, ioy, & vnderstanding, and yet obtaine not this faith and the fruite of it?

The meanes of the working, exercising, confirming, and increasing of faith, and the frutes of it.

AN. \* The cause is the vchangeable purpose of God from before all beginnings, wherein he hath (beinge moued onely by his own holy will) appointed freely to chuse some to Christ vnto saluation through faith, for the prayse of his riche grace: And iustly to cast away others, when they should by their owne default deserue the same. Nowe this foundation standeth sure, and hath this seale, that the Lorde knoweth who are his: but for our owne assurance, Let euerie one departe from iniquitie which calleth on the name of Iesus.

\* Ma. 13. 20  
21.  
Heb. 6. 4. 5.  
†. Matt. 11. 25. 26.  
Luke. 11. 34  
Act. 13. 48.  
Rom. 8. 30.  
Ro 9. 11. 12  
18. 22. 23.  
Eph. 1. 4. 5.  
1. Thes. 5. 9.  
2. The. 2. 13  
1. Pet. 2. 8.  
Iud. 4.

Qv. What meanes besides the seruice of God at home, must we chieflie vse, to exercise, confirme, and nourishe this faith and the frutes thereof?

AN

## THE GROUNDES OF RELIGION.

AN. We must diligentlie vse all the workes of the publike Ministrie, which are prescribed of God, <sup>a</sup> as prayer, doctrine, exhortation, the Sacramentes, & communicating vnto the poore.

*Qv. What is a Sacrament?*

AN. It is <sup>b</sup> a seale wherein by the outwarde and publike workes, respecting both the Minister & the Church, prescribed of God, and ioyned with the inwarde workes answering vnto them, is more (then in the worde only preached) liuely represented, and truely offered vnto all, but assuredlie aplyed to the true members of Christ only, *Christ Iesus and the couenant of grace, fully ratified in him.* For the liuely representing they are called signes: for the effectuall assuring and applying seales.

*Qv. What are the outward workes?*

AN. They are <sup>c</sup> for the Minister, first to put apart the outwarde element or signe, by opening the institution and couenaut of God, by praying and giuing thanks. Secondly, to applie the same as is cōmanded. <sup>d</sup> For the people to ioyne in hearinge and prayer, and to haue this signe so aplyed. <sup>e</sup> Now of Sacraments, there are onlie these two: Baptisme, and the Lordes Supper.

*Qv. What is Baptisme?*

AN. <sup>f</sup> The first Sacrament, wherein by the Mini-

<sup>a</sup> Act. 2. 42.

Ro. 12. 5. 6. 7

1 Cor. 12. 28

<sup>b</sup> 1. Cor. 17.

13.

1. Pet. 3. 21.

Rom. 4. 11.

<sup>c</sup> Ma. 28. 19

Act. 2. 42 &

19. 4. 5. and

20. 7.

Ephe. 5. 26.

Act. 22. 6.

Mat. 26. 27

1. Co. 10. 16

17. & 11. 23

24. 25. 26.

d. Lu. 1. 59.

Act. 2. 42.

1. Co. 10. 16

17. & 11. 22.

e. 1 Co. 10. 1

2. 3. & 12. 13

f. Mat. 3. 11.

Act. 22. 16.

1. Pet. 3. 21.

Ro. 6. 1. & c.



## THE GROVNDES OF RELIGION.

Ministers once washing with water, into the name of the Father, the Sonne, and the holie Ghost, is more firmly applied, Christ his once ingraffing of vs into himselfe, for the washing of vs by the holie Ghost, for our full iustification and continuall sanctification in his righteousnesse, death, burial, and his resurrection.

*Qv. What is the Lordes Supper?*

AN. <sup>g</sup> The second Sacrament, wherein by the Minister his putting apart, his breaking powring forth and giuinge of breade and wine, by the Churches receyuig, eating & drinking of the same, the faithfull haue more fullie applied their daily & more effectuall receiuing by faith, of the body and blud of Christ, for the spiritual nourishing of their soules in iustification and sanctification vnto eternall life.

g. Matt. 26.  
26. 27.  
1 Co. 10. 1. 2.  
3. 15. 16. 17.  
1 Cor. 12. 13.

*Qv. When wee come to the Supper of the Lord, how must we prepare our selues before, behaue our selues in the present worke, and reape fruite by it continually after?*

AN. <sup>h</sup> Before we must trie our faith and repentance, not onely whether they be true, but also howe wee growe in them, what is the dulnesse and weaknes of them, that we may the more feruentlie seeke the quickning and strengthening of them in this Sacrament. In the present worke, we must haue

h. Esa. 46. 2. 3.  
1. Co. 11. 28.  
31. & 10. 1. 2.  
2 Chr. 30. 19.  
2. Cor. 13. 5.  
Pla. 29. 3. 4.  
Ma. 5. 23. 24.

## THE GROVNBES OF RELIGION.

**1. 1. Cor. 10.** haue <sup>i</sup> in euery outward action, the inward  
**16.** feeling of that which is signified by it, as in  
**with 1oh. 17** the putting a-part of the bread and wine,  
**1. 2. 3. &c.** we must feele more assuredly, that Christes  
 bodie & bloud was put a-part by his pray-  
**1. Mark. 14.** ers, to be the foo le of our soules: <sup>k</sup> by the  
**24.** breaking of the bread, and pōuring forth  
**1. Co. 11. 24** of the wine, that his body was crucified. &  
**Esai. 53. 5.** his bloud shed for vs: by the giuing and  
**1. 1. Co. 10.** receyuing <sup>l</sup> of them, that his body & bloud  
**15. 16 and 11** is presentlie more liuely giuen vnto vs, and  
**23. 24. 25.** receyued by faith, <sup>m</sup> by the eating & drin-  
**Marke. 14.** king, for the nourishinge of our bodies,  
**28. 23. 24.** that our soules so ioyfullie feede on Christ  
**1. 1. Co. 10.** by faith, as we are more fully assured of the  
**2. 3.** forgiuenes of all, especiallye particular  
**1. Co. 12. 13.** sinnes, of greater grāce to leaue them, of  
**Mar. 14. 22.** eternall life in soule and body, as wee doe  
**23. 24. 25. 26** with heauenlie consolation, singe prayses  
**Psal. 26. 7. 8** vnto God, for the redēption of the world.  
**1. Psa. 51. 6.** After, by the meditation hereof, <sup>n</sup> wee must  
**Can. 2. 5.** be strengthened in all temptations, which  
**2. Co. 13. 3.** are against our iustificatiō & sanctification.  
**1. 5.**

*The meanes of  
 recoueringe a  
 sinner.*

*Qv. What meanes are leste to recouer those  
 sinners which are fallen into any sinne knowne  
 to man, whom the preachinge of the worde  
 of it selfe doth not reforme?*

**1. Math. 18.**  
**15. 16.**  
**1am. 5. 16.**  
**19.**

*AN. <sup>a</sup> I h. re are leste for priuate offences  
 (that is, such as are obserued of vs, and not  
 otherwise notorious) priuate admonition:*

first

## THE GROVNDEN OF RELIGION.

first by our selues, and if that worke not re-  
formation, in the presence of one or two  
more. <sup>b</sup> For publike offences, (of whiche  
sorte also are priuate offences where amend-  
ment followeth not the seconde degree of  
admonition, the same beinge declared to  
the Gouvernours of the same particlar  
Church,) the rebukes and exhortati-  
ons of the Ministers and Elders. If that  
worke not amendement, <sup>c</sup> A marking  
of them out by separatinge them from  
the Communion. And last of all, if they a-  
mend not by that <sup>d</sup> after orderly notifying  
it to the Church with the consent of the  
same, which is when no iust exception is  
taken, Excomunicatiō, or deliuering to Sa-  
tan, for the destructiō of the flesh, & sauing  
of the spirit in the day of the Lord: so that  
vppon good tokens of repentaunce, and  
publike confession, <sup>e</sup> he bee receyued in-  
to the Church againe.

b. Mat. 18.  
16. 17.  
1. Thes. 5. 12  
Rom. 12. 6.  
7. 8.  
1. Co. 12. 18  
Heb. 13. 17.  
c. 2. The. 3.  
14.  
1. Co. 5. 11.  
Luk. 6. 22.  
Gen. 4. 2. 3. 4  
Iob. 42. 7. 8.  
Iere. 36. 5.  
Ma. 5. 23. 24  
1. Co. 11. 28  
Nuti. 42. 44  
d. Ma. 18. 17  
1. Co. 5. 1. 7  
3. &c.  
Gen. 17. 14.  
Leuit. 7. 25.  
26. 27.  
Heb. 10. 8.  
Num. 19. 13  
Gal. 5. 11.  
1. Tim. 1. 20  
e. 2. Cor. 2.  
6. 7. 8. &c.

COLOS. 3. 16.

*Let the Worde of God dwell plenteouslie in  
you With all wisdome, teaching and admoni-  
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and Spiritual Songs, singinge With a grace  
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1. Mark. 14.

24.

1. Co. 1

Esa. 5.

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15. 16. 20

23. 24. 25

Mark. 14

22. 23. 24

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1. 1. Co. 10.

2. 3.

1. Co. 12. 13.

Mar. 14. 22.

23. 24. 25. 26

Psal. 26. 7. 8

1. Psal. 51. 6.

Can. 2. 5.

2. Co. 13. 3.

4. 5.

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